

SWIMMING POOL ENCLOSURES

PLACER COUNTY BUILDING DEPARTMENT

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www.placer.ca.gov/building/building.htm

NOTICE TO POOL OWNERS

POOLS MUST BE ENCLOSED PRIOR TO FILLING WITH WATER

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO INSTALL THE FENCE PRIOR TO THE PRE-PLASTER INSPECTION

DEFINITION: A swimming pool is any structure intended for swimming or recreational bathing that contains water over 18" deep. This includes in-ground, aboveground and on-ground swimming pools; hot tubs; portable and non-portable spas; and fixed-in-place wading pools.

An outdoor swimming pool shall be provided with a barrier that shall be installed, inspected and approved prior to plastering or filling with water. The barrier shall comply with the following items:

ITEM 1: The top of the barrier shall be at least 60" above grade measured on the side of the barrier that faces away from the swimming pool. The maximum vertical clearance between grade and the bottom of the barrier shall be 2" measured on the side of the barrier that faces away from the swimming pool. The maximum vertical clearance at the bottom of the barrier may be increased to 4" when the grade is a solid surface such as a concrete deck, or when the barrier is mounted on the top of the aboveground pool structure. When barriers have horizontal members spaced less than 45" apart, the horizontal members shall be placed on the pool side of the barrier. Any decorative design work on the side away from the swimming pool, such as protrusions, indentations or cutouts, which render the barrier easily climbable, is prohibited.

ITEM 2: Openings in the barrier shall not allow passage of a 1¾" diameter sphere.

EXCEPTIONS:

- a. When vertical spacing between such openings is 45" or more, the opening size may be increased such that the passage of a 4" diameter sphere is not allowed.
- b. For fencing composed of vertical and horizontal members, the spacing between vertical members may be increased up to 4" when the distance between the tops of horizontal members is 45" or more.

ITEM 3: Chain link fences used as the barrier shall not be less than 11 gage.

ITEM 4: Access gates shall comply with the requirements of Items 1 through 3. Pedestrian access gates shall be self-closing and have a self-latching device. Where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 54" from the bottom of the gate, (1) the release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the barrier at least 3" below the top of the gate, and (2) the gate and barrier shall have no opening greater than ½" within 18" of the release mechanism. Pedestrian gates shall swing away from the pool. Any gates other than pedestrian access gates shall be equipped with lockable hardware or padlocks and shall remain locked at all time when not in use. A permanent sign shall be posted which reads: *THIS ACCESS TO BE KEPT LOCKED AT ALL TIMES.*

ITEM 5: Where a wall of a Group R, Division 3 Occupancy (including attached garage) serves as part of the barrier and contains door openings between the dwelling unit/garage and the outdoor swimming pool that provide direct access to the pool, a separation fence meeting the requirements of Items 1, 2, 3, and 4 shall be provided.

EXCEPTIONS:

- a. Doors with self-closing and self-latching devices with release mechanism located a minimum of 54" above the floor.
- b. Doors provided with alarms. The alarm shall make continuous and audible sounds throughout the dwelling when the door and its screen, if present are opened or left ajar. Alarms may be battery operated or may be connected to the electrical wiring of the building. The alarm(s) can be either individual alarm(s) at each door, or programmed into a general security alarm system for the home.
- c. Pools provided with a safety cover complying with ASTM Standard F1346.

Spas and hot tubs are excluded from these requirements provided they are fitted with a rigid cover, capable of being secured in place and of sufficient size to prevent access by small children.

Electrically operated gates must be automatically self-closing within one minute of being opened.

Swimming pools, spas, equipment locations and fences in setbacks shall be per Placer County Planning and Building Departments Codes and Ordinances.

NOTE: Heater equipment vents must be at least 4' from property lines.

NOTICE: Compliance with The Swimming Pool Safety Act is mandatory.

The method of compliance with The Swimming Pool Safety Act shall be noted on the site plan of the submitted drawings prior to issuance of the Building Permit. The Safety Features shall be in place prior to the pre-plaster inspection or filling the pool with water, whichever occurs first. The contractor or homeowner is to provide access for inspection of devices located within the dwelling.

THE SWIMMING POOL SAFETY ACT

Excerpts from California Health & Safety Code §115920 et. seq.

§115921. DEFINITIONS

As used in this article the following terms have the following meanings:

- (a) *Swimming Pool* or *Pool* means any structure intended for swimming or recreational bathing that contains water over 18 inches deep. *Swimming Pool* includes in-ground and above-ground structures and includes, but is not limited to, hot tubs, spas, portable spa, and nonportable wading pools.
- (b) *Public Swimming Pool* means a swimming pool operated for the use of the general public with or without charge, or for the use of the members and guests of a private club. Public swimming pool does not include a swimming pool located on the grounds of a private single-family home.
- (c) *Enclosure* means a fence, wall, or other barrier that isolates a swimming pool from access to the home.
- (d) *Approved Safety Pool Cover* means a manually or power-operated safety pool cover that meets all the performance standards of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), in compliance with Standard F1346-91.
- (e) *Exit Alarms* means devices that make audible, continuous alarm sounds when any door or window, that permits access from the residence to the pool area that is without any intervening enclosure, is open or left ajar. Exit alarms may be battery operated or may be connected to the electrical wiring of the building.

§115922. SAFETY FEATURES

Commencing January 1, 1998, except as provided in §115925, whenever a construction permit is issued for construction of a new swimming pool at a private single-family home it shall be equipped with at least one of the following safety features:

- (a) The pool shall be isolated from access to a home by an enclosure that meets the requirements of §115923.
- (b) The pool shall be equipped with an approved safety pool cover.
- (c) The residence shall be equipped with exit alarms on the doors providing direct access to the pool.
- (d) All doors providing direct access from the home to the swimming pool shall be equipped with a self-closing, self-latching device with a release mechanism placed no lower than 54 inches above the floor.

§115923. ENCLOSURE

An enclosure shall have all of the following characteristics:

- (a) Any access gates through the enclosure open away from the swimming pool, and are self-closing with a self-latching device placed no lower than 60 inches above the ground.
- (b) A minimum height of 60 inches.
- (c) A maximum vertical clearance from the ground to the bottom of the enclosure of two inches.
- (d) Gaps or voids, if any, do not allow the passage of a sphere equal to or greater than 4 inches in diameter.
- (e) An outside surface free of protrusions, cavities, or other physical characteristics that would serve as handholds or footholds that could enable a child below the age of five years to climb over.

§115924. CONSUMER NOTICE

Any person entering into an agreement to build a swimming pool shall give the consumer notice of the requirements of this article.